

**The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert)** is a 2yr online course for all in Southwark who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022. All of the details of the course, including how to apply, costs, dates and content are available at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> For further information on the ArchCert please contact the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis on 202 8672 7684 or email <mailto:archcert@rcaos.org.uk>

**The Trustees of the East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust** invite applications from Year 13 students who will be studying **Law, History or English** at university next year, for the *Leyland Birch Academic Bursary*. The bursary is worth £1,200. Applicants must complete a short form and submit an essay of their choice, written during their sixth form studies, alongside a personal statement, which may be the one they use for their UCAS application. Further information, including full details of the area of benefit (anyone living in Welling and some bordering roads in Bexleyheath, Eltham and Sidcup) can be found on the website <http://www.ewt.org.uk/grants/leyland-birch-academic-bursary/>

### Donations to St Stephen's Church

**PayPal Donate Button** on St Stephen's website—go to [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) and click on the PayPal donate button on the left of the page. Donations can be made as a 'one off' or regular monthly payments and will go directly to St Stephen's Church.

**JustGiving:** Parishioners who wish to support the parish may also do so online via [justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport). Please note that parishioners need to reference their donation with the full parish name and location.

**Food Bank** are in desperate need of the following items: *deodorant, washing pods, sweets, chocolate treats, long-life fruit juice, bottled squash, long-life semi-skimmed milk, sugar, noodles, custard, coffee, toilet paper, shower gel, toothpaste, tinned fish, spaghetti, rice pudding, fruit and carrier bags*. Please leave donations in the box in the church porch. Thank you

**Sharing the Church's Story Conference:** Saturday 17th September at the Friends Meeting House in Euston. Bishop Robert Barron and other speakers will explore the place of Catholicism in these times. Tickets £51.00. <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/store/p/ctcs-cv2022>

**Blind Veterans UK** is a charity that supports anyone who has served in the Armed Forces, or who has done National Service, and is now living with significant sight loss. The charity helps blind ex-service men & women lead independent and fulfilling lives by supporting them with a full range of services. <https://www.blindveterans.org.uk/> **Volunteer Role: Home Visitor** required to visit weekly a 92-year-old member in Welling. Visits from a local male volunteer, who enjoys wartime aircraft and/or the navy would really brighten our veteran's day. To find out more see poster or go to <https://volunteer.blindveterans.org.uk/opportunities/30661-home-visitor-welling-2022-04-13> or contact Thais Curia email [thais.curia@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:thais.curia@blindveterans.org.uk) or tel 07395 600930

### Apprenticeship at the Archdiocese of Southwark

The Archdiocese of Southwark are seeking an apprentice to work within the Fundraising & Gift Aid team in their central offices (located Lambeth North). If you, or someone you know, would like to earn a level 3 Business Administrator Standard whilst working within a hardworking and passionate team, supporting the work of the Catholic Church in South London and Kent, please find out more by visiting: <https://www.rcaos.org.uk/fundraising/apprenticeship>

### Reminder: New Parish Secretary Email

**Address:** Please note that with immediate effect Lorraine Harris, parish secretary's email address is [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk). Please use this address for all email correspondence.

**Schools** have now broken up for the summer holidays. We pray for staff, children, parents and governors that they will have a time of relaxation and renewal during the summer holidays and return to school refreshed and raring to go.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

26 DEEPDENE ROAD, WELLING, KENT DA16 3QL ☒ Telephone: 020 8303 4422  
Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera  
website: [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) Email: [welling@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:welling@rcaos.org.uk)  
Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk)

School St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG  
Telephone: 020 8303 9738

## Nineteenth Sunday (Year C)

### Saturday 6th August

**5pm** Dennis Cocklin RIP

### Sunday 7th August

**9.30am** Lloyd Lobo—birthday

**11.30am** People of the Parish

### Mon 8th Aug St Dominic

**10am** Rowena Govia RIP—anniv

### Tues 9th St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

**10am** Jack Cloono RIP—1st anniv

**7pm** Novena Mass

### Wed 10th St Lawrence

**10am** Leah D'Costa—birthday

### Thurs 11th St Clare

**10am** Donald Govia RIP—birthday

### Fri 12th Feria

**10am** Julio Desouza

### Sat 13th Feria

**10am** Priest's Ints

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday 10.30am—11am and 4pm—4.30pm**

### The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary (Year C)

### Saturday 13th August

**5pm** Cancy Coutinho—thanksgiving birthday

### Sunday 14th August

**9.30am** Jennifer D'Cruz RIP—anniv

**11.30am** People of the Parish

**Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.**

## DONATIONS

All donations are greatly appreciated to help support our church & parish. Thank you.

The offertory collection after the Liturgy of the Word during Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning is for parishioners who wish to donate with their gift aid envelopes or with loose cash. If you choose to donate via the digital plate in church, online or by standing order, please continue to do so—there is no need to change your chosen method of giving. The collection bag will also be circulated for second collections.

**Donate online** at <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or <https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport>—please include parish name and location or click on the PayPal donate button on [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk). To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.

NatWest Bank  
Sort Code: 51-70-14  
Account No. 39013332  
Account Name: RCAS Welling  
Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.

**Digital Collection Plates** are situated at the back of the church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted. Your donation can be gift aided by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen (name, address and email address required) and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded as a gift aid donation. A Gift Aid Declaration is required when using the Digital Collection Plate for the first time even if you are registered for Gift Aid at St Stephen's.

My dear people,

The Gospel reading of today need to be read as a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel. It contains many sayings of Jesus, and in them Jesus continues to teach his disciples values which will make them feel at home in the kingdom of God. Possessing the Kingdom of God they will have everything. In case there is any doubt in the mind of the disciples, today's text begins with the words, 'do not be afraid.'

'Do not be afraid' are the words addressed to Abraham. Thus faith is a major theme in our readings. Our text from the letter to the Hebrews begins with a definition of faith giving the example of Abraham, father of faith.

Abraham was given the promise of land that God made. He believed that if God made a promise, that promise would be fulfilled. And it was. He was also promised that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky or grains of sand on the seashore.

These promises of God were in spite of Abraham and Sarah being old. And it was also fulfilled.

Faith looks beyond the present moment to a future that is held in God's hands. Faith is to be able to accept promises of God in the firm knowledge that God will fulfil those promises.

This is the faith Jesus is inviting his disciples to have. Faith is not forced. The disciples are free. Abraham was free to return to the land he left behind, just as the disciples are free to return to material life. The decision and choice is theirs. This was the challenge Jesus put before them. No wonder Peter asked the question, "are you telling this for us or for everyone?"

It is the same challenge we are given today. How can we respond today.

God Bless and love you.  
Canon Edward

#### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—(Year C)

### Scripture Insights

Today's readings show us how the faithful must often carry on in adverse conditions that require strength and alertness as they wait for God's deliverance. The second reading is especially direct. Scholars agree that Paul did not write this composition and that it was most likely a sermon, rather than a letter, by an unnamed orator. This preacher was apparently addressing Jewish Christians who were moving away from their faith. It was not uncommon for Christians to lose their jobs, marriages, family inheritances, or even their lives. For this reason, the author focuses on returning to authentic faith lived out together as a community.

The section we hear today points to Abraham's great faith as an example. He believed in God's promises despite obvious uncertainties, and, in the case of the near sacrifice of Isaac, he held on to trust even in the face of God's terrible command. Although he and others of our ancestors never saw the ultimate fulfilment of God's promises—the chosen people settled in the Promised Land—they believed in it "from afar" and followed their path (Heb 11:13). In the same way, Christians need to believe in Christ despite the adversities they might face.

The fulfilment of all faith in God and his promises is Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose sacrificial death brought humanity back into right relationship with their Creator. For this reason, the audience should all the more recognise the incredible opportunity and grace they have received in this faith in Christ and membership in the Church and

return to these gifts wholeheartedly. In the view of the author, this is a gift you cannot sent back!

### Reflections

- We have an "inexhaustible treasure" waiting for us in heaven (Lk 12:33). How can we prepare our hearts today to receive such a great gift? Jesus calls his little flock—of which each of us is a member—to be ready. We can prepare by serving others with love. Give alms. Volunteer your time. Practice patience. Even little actions help ready our hearts for God's great coming.
- Much is required of the person entrusted with much. How will this challenge/impact our daily lives?
- Paul offers one definition of faith in today's second reading when he says, "Faith is the realisation of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). What does faith mean to you? Faith goes beyond any definition and even beyond words. Faith is complex, soaked with mystery. Yet we also follow in a long lineage of faithful people like Abraham and Sarah. What commonalities might we share with our ancestors in the faith? How is our faith today different in our unique time and place?

LTP Sourcebook 2022

### Bishop Patrick Lynch: Golden Jubilee

Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Bishop Pat will take place on **Thursday 8th September at 7pm** at St Stephen's. All welcome to join us in this special occasion. The Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the parish hall where we will make a presentation to Bishop Pat in thanks for his dedicated service. If you would like to bring a dish to share in the hall please add your name & choice of food to share on the list at the back of the church or contact the church office.

**REMINDER: Join our Mailing List** and never miss a newsletter or important updates. To receive our weekly newsletter by email directly into your inbox please email [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk) to subscribe, include your name and confirm your consent to receive our newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time by notifying the parish office. Your email address will not be shared and used only to receive our newsletter. If you have any queries please contact the parish office.

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August at St Saviour Church, Lewisham High Street SE13 6AA starting at 9.30am to 5pm.

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August at St George's Cathedral starting at 10.15am to 5.15pm. For full details of the days please see the posters in the porch or go to [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org). All welcome to attend. Please bring a packed lunch—tea/coffee provided. During the day Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Flame 2023 - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Wembley Arena:** The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture "Mary arose and went with haste" and crystallises it into the theme, "**Rise Up!**" Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. This is for Catholic young people of secondary school age and above. It is a wonderful opportunity for schools and parish youth and confirmation groups. Further details: <https://cymfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FLAME-2023-5.pdf> Please contact *Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis* who are coordinating the block booking for the Archdiocese of Southwark. Email: [aec@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aec@rcaos.org.uk) Tel: 020 8672 7684

### Encountering the Relics of St Bernadette

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. The churches and cathedrals hosting St Bernadette's relics have a fixed capacity for visitors. To ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims, visitors will be asked to register to attend with a dedicated timeslot. For a full list of venues and to book a *free* place please go to <https://stbernadette.org.uk/the-tour/> Prayers to support the tour can be found at <https://stbernadette.org.uk/prayers/> The relics will be coming to Southwark diocese in October. [Registration - St Bernadette](https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration-st-bernadette) **St George's Cathedral:** Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7HY Arrive: 19/10/2022 9:45am Depart: 21/10/2022 10:00am.

**The Friars,** Aylesford: Aylsford, Kent, ME20 7BX Southwark Diocese Arrive: 24/10/2022 7:00pm Depart: 28/10/2022 1:00pm.

If you would like further information or have any questions regarding the tour, please email [mailto:contact@stbernadette.org.uk](mailto:mailto:contact@stbernadette.org.uk)

**World Youth Day 2023:** The Archdiocese of Southwark is taking a group of pilgrims (aged 18-35) to WYD 2023 in Lisbon. Provisional dates are 31<sup>st</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August. Please register your interest to receive information at [Archdiocese of Southwark \(jotform.com\)](http://Archdiocese of Southwark (jotform.com)). Further information about World Youth Day is at [WYD Lisbon 2023 \(lisboa2023.org\)](http://WYD Lisbon 2023 (lisboa2023.org))

**Children's Liturgy:** Video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer. Go to [Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](http://Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy (rpbooks.co.uk))

**The Rosary** will be said before every weekday morning Mass. Please join us and arrive half an hour before Mass to participate in these prayers for peace, particularly for Ukraine and Sri Lanka.